

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A surge arrester, comprising:

a stack of a plurality of cylindrical varistor blocks, which are arranged one after ~~the other~~  
another in ~~the~~ an axial direction of the varistor blocks,

an upper end electrode and a lower end electrode,

clamping members of insulating material comprising at least three loops of continuously wound glass fiber, which connect the upper end electrode to the lower end electrode, wherein ~~insulating material comprising at of continuously wound glass fiber, end electrode to the lower end~~ each of said loops comprises a first strand and a second strand, wherein the first strand and the second strand have asymmetrical cross-sections, such that a cross-section of the first strand is mirror symmetric to a cross-section of the second strand, and wherein an axis of symmetry of the cross-section of the first strand is inclined with respect to a corresponding axis of symmetry of the cross-section of the second strand,

a bursting-protective bandage ~~in the form of~~ comprising a plurality of rings or bands wound of fiber, said bandage (16) radially surrounding the varistor stack and the clamping loops, and

a surrounding, electrically insulating, outer casing of rubber or other polymeric material;

~~a first cross section of the first strand is mirror symmetric to a second cross section of the second strand, and wherein a symmetry axis of the first cross section is inclined to a corresponding symmetry axis of the second cross section.~~

2. (previously amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the asymmetrical cross sections of the loops are shaped and located so that not only two corners, one on either strand, make contact with the varistor stack.

3. (currently amended) The surge arrester (~~1~~) according to claim 1, wherein the asymmetrical cross sections of the loops are adapted to increase ~~the~~ a contact surface against the varistor stack.

4. (currently amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the asymmetrical cross sections of the loops are adapted to shorten ~~the~~ a free span of the rings or bands inside the loops.

5. (previously amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the asymmetrical cross sections of the loops are adapted to enable the rings or bands to be wound closer to the stack.

6. (currently amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the asymmetrical cross sections of the loops are adapted such that ~~the~~ shapes of the rings or bands become approximately circular.

7. (previously amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the cross sections of the loops essentially correspond to two mirror-inverted rhombs or rhomboids.

8. (previously amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the rings or bands are wound of aramide fiber or PBO fiber with an epoxy or vinyl ester matrix.

9. (previously presented) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the varistor blocks are made of metal oxide.